

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 03551 232223Z  
ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00  
COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02  
NSC-05 L-03 H-02 PA-02 USIA-15 OIC-02 HA-05 /121 W  
-----007046 232243Z /14-65

P 232111Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5091  
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 03551

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ICFTU, ELAB, TS  
SUBJ: ICFTU DELEGATION TO TUNISIA

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 3184; (B) TUNIS 1357

1. THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION  
OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE  
FEB. 22 ON THE RECENT VISIT OF AN ICFTU DELEGATION TO  
TUNIS. EXCEPT FOR A FINAL PARAGRAPH LISTING DELEGATION  
MEMBERS (REF A) , THE RELEASE IS QUOTED IN FULL BELOW:

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BEGIN TEXT:

THE TOP LEVEL TRADE UNION DELEGATION WHICH VISITED TUNIS  
FROM FEBRUARY 19 TO 21 HAS OBTAINED SOME SATISFACTION  
FROM THE FACT THAT IT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET HABIB  
ACHOUR, THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE TUNISIAN TRADE UNION  
FEDERATION UGTT, WHO HAS BEEN IN PRISON SINCE JANUARY 28

TOGETHER WITH NUMEROUS OTHER TRADE UNIONISTS, INCLUDING TEN OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UGTT EXECUTIVE. THE DELEGATION WAS, HOWEVER, SHOCKED TO FIND THAT NO CHARGES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT SO FAR AGAINST THOSE DETAINED.

THE GENERAL STRIKE OF JANUARY 26, WHICH WAS A MANIFESTATION OF THE GROWING DISCONTENT OF THE TUNISIAN WORKERS WITH THE DETERIORATING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION, HAPPENED AT A TIME OF HIGH POLITICAL TENSION AND ALL KINDS OF POLITICAL FACTIONS HAVE TRIED TO EXPLOIT IT FOR THEIR OWN ENDS.

BUT IN ANY CASE, THE DELEGATION IS OF THE OPINION THAT DEMOCRACY CANNOT BE DEFENDED BY UNDEMOCRATIC MEANS. THAT IS WHY IT CONDEMNS, ONCE AGAIN, THE ARRESTS OF TRADE UNIONISTS AND THE BLOODY SUPPRESSION ON THE DAY OF THE STRIKE ITSELF.

THE ICFTU WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW EVENTS IN TUNISIA WITH THE GREATEST ATTENTION, AND WILL TAKE ALL EFFECTIVE ACTION TO OBTAIN THE LIBERATION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS. IT WILL KEEP ITS MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS INFORMED OF THE TUNISIAN SITUATION AND WILL ASK THEM TO INTERVENE WITH THEIR GOVERNMENTS SO THAT PRESSURE IS EXERTED ON TUNISIA IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THESE GOALS. END TEXT.

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2. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH ABOVE STATEMENT WAS RELEASED, ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY OTTO KERSTEN WAS ASKED WHETHER THE ICFTU WAS GOING TO ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO ATTEND THE FEB. 25-26 UGTT EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS, AND HE REPLIED THAT THE ICFTU WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE PRESENT. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO AN ICFTU SOURCE, A REUTERS DISPATCH IN FRENCH FEB. 22 SOMEHOW LEFT OUT THE NEGATIVE. THE ICFTU HAS ASKED REUTERS TO SEND OUT A CORRECTION. HINTON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, VISITS, MEETING DELEGATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**SAS ID:** 3510779  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ICFTU DELEGATION TO TUNISIA  
**TAGS:** ELAB, TS, ICFTU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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